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COLLECTIVE FARM EXPANSION IN RUMANIA

Collective farms in the RPR (Rumanian People's Republic) are undergoing a period of expansion and development. They are entering new branches of production, such as the cultivation of grains, vegetables, fruit trees, industrial crops, vineyards, and the raising of livestock, poultry, and bees. The collective farms offer facilities for the proper utilization of the full working capacity of all members, of machinery and equipment, and of all local resources.

Because of the constant assistance given by the party and the government, the collective farms have obtained average yields per hectare greatly exceeding those in the private sector. Average yields per hectare for certain crops on collective farms, as compared to average yields for the entire country, are as follows:

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Likewise, the production of many collective farms has exceeded that of neighboring individual peasant holdings by more than 50-percent and sometimes as much as 100 percent. For instance, the average yield of wheat per hectare was 3,000 kilograms on the collective farm at Ghimbav, Stalin Regiune, in contrast to only 1,600 kilograms for the individual peasant holdings. Similarly, the yield obtained by the collective farm at Galicea Mare, Dolj Regiune, was 2,600 kilograms of wheat per hectare, as compared with 1,400 kilograms for individual peasant holdings. The collective farm at Balenii Romani, Prahova Regiune obtained 3,930 kilograms of barley per hectare in contrast to the 1,700 kilograms obtained by individual peasants. The collective farm at Madaras, Bihor Regiune, obtained a yield of 3,700 kilograms of shelled corn per hectare and that at Dorobanti, Arad Regiune, 4,500 kilograms per hectare, in contrast to the 1,600 and 1,800 kilograms per hectare obtained by the individual peasantry at Madarasi and Dorobanti, respectively.

Increases in the production of cereals were accompanied by increases in the production of industrial crops and progress in the field of animal husbandry. Cotton has grown on more than 200 collective farms during 1951, and more sugar beets and industrial crops were cultivated during that year. The collective farms have nearly 2,000 livestock sections for both large and small animals, with large numbers of cattle, hogs, sheep, and poultry.

These important achievements of the collective farms demonstrate the great possibilities of these socialist organizations for raising agricultural production.

Small and middle peasant holdings are usually unable to satisfy their own needs and are in a position to expand their activity only during years of plenty. Collective farms, on the other hand, have great internal reserves and state aid and can, therefore, organize themselves efficiently and develop according to the principles of socialist reproduction. The vast internal resources of the collective farms and their capacity for rapid development are evident from the following examples. In 1949, the collective farm at Berveni, Baia Mare Regiune, had, at the time of its establishment, three horses, four sheep, and 11 cows. In 1951, the same farm had 107 horses, 158 cows, 73 pigs, 165 sheep, 629 fowl, and 50 beehives. In 1949, the collective farm at Zabran, Arad Regiune, had 14 plows, 11 harrows, 3 hoes, 4 corn planters, 1 winnowing mill, and 17 vehicles. By 1951, there were 105 plows, 89 harrows, 82 hoes, 22 wheat-sowing machines, 40 corn planters, 4 cultivators, and 103 vehicles. These collective farms now include almost all the families in these villages.

#### Multilateral Development

The problem of multilateral development of the collective farms has been treated in all the resolutions of the party and the government concerning the establishment of such farms.

The resolution of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party and of the Council of Ministers of the Rumanian People's Republic, dated 1 March 1951, on the organizational and economic consolidation of collective farms states that they must become complex and multilateral establishments: "The production plan shall include provisions for the multilateral development of the collective farms, such as the raising of livestock and poultry, the growing of silkworms, the setting up of beehives, the construction of fishponds, and the development of handicrafts as local conditions permit. Special attention is to be given to the growing of more industrial crops." Therefore, the resolution recommends that collective farms, within 2 years after their establishment, organize livestock sections and plant orchards and vineyards.

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Analyzing the progress made in building up the collective farms, the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party indicated in its resolution of 18 September 1951 that a considerable proportion of the collective farms had achieved important successes in their organizational and economic consolidation by establishing many branches of production. A good example of a collective farm with numerous production branches is the Progresul Collective Farm in Ialomita Regiune, which, during 1951, cultivated 30 hectares of rice with a record yield of 5,640 kilograms per hectare, plus 10 hectares of vegetables and 22 hectares of fruit trees as well as grain. In addition, it set up a farm with 31 milk cows, a pig farm with 121 pigs, a sheep farm with 1,158 sheep, a poultry farm with 1,052 fowl, and an apiary with 63 beehives.

The sale of the products obtained from these auxiliary farms brought over 900,000 old lei. Through the sale of the rice alone, the members of the collective farm received from the state linen, sugar, soda, and other products in addition to cash. The activity curve of the farm showed no seasonal fluctuations throughout the year.

It has thus been demonstrated that collective farms with many production branches have been in a better position to utilize their labor force and means of production throughout the year and have been able to increase their incomes.

However, despite these unquestioned achievements, the multilateral development of the collective farms has been hindered by the improper outlook of certain activists in agriculture and of certain officials in the state offices. The resolution of 18 September 1951 criticizes "the deficiencies in the development of collective farms."

Many collective farms did not pay sufficient attention to the development of new production branches when drafting their production plan. For instance, the collective farm at Banloc, Timisoara Regiune, did not provide for the erection of stables or allot funds in its plan for the purchase of cattle, although it was in a good position to engage in stock raising.

On other farms such as the one at Isbiceni, Dolj Regiune, the plan was drafted in the office without taking into consideration the actual potentialities of the farm, the strength of the labor force, and the available means of production.

As a result, the above-mentioned collective farms are limited to one type of activity, their communal work is not developing at a sustained pace, and as a whole, the work of their members is not producing satisfactory results.

To eliminate these shortcomings and restraining factors in production, the resolution of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party, and of the government, dated 18 September 1951, assigned to the leaders of the collective farms and of the party organizations the task of "convincing the members of collective farms that continuous improvement of their standard of living is contingent on the development of the collective farms, the establishment and expansion of cattle, hog, and poultry farms, and that, therefore, every effort must be made to increase the revenues of collective farms through hard work and productive investments."

The 28 January 1952 resolution of the party and the government concerning the currency reform states that the collective farms must serve as a living example to the peasant workers with individual holdings and must supply the towns with as many food products as possible. Therefore, collective farms must undergo a continuous development and become model farms, centers of attraction for the entire working peasantry. They must demonstrate the superiority of

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socialist agriculture through their achievements and at the same time, make a great contribution to supplying the needs of the working class and socialist industry.

The Resolution of the Council of Ministers of the Rumanian People's Republic, and of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Workers' Party of 7 March 1952, on the measures necessary for the consolidation of the currency reform states that increasing the production of marketable goods on the collective farms must be given first attention in developing them organizationally and economically. This decree assigned to collectives the task of helping the state accumulate sufficient quantities of marketable goods to guarantee a food supply for the urban working population and the development of industry.

Multilateral development, that is, the establishment of auxiliary branches and enterprises on collective farms, guarantees the following:

1. The fulfillment of all obligations toward the state.
2. Increased production by the collective farm.
3. The exhaustive and rational exploitation of all local resources.
4. Larger revenues through the creation of new sources of income.
5. Opportunity for the members of the farm to work all year and not only during the seasons when work is done in the fields.
6. Reduction of the farm's expenses through exhaustive utilization of all the products of each production branch.
7. Increased communal income and, as a result, higher economic, professional, and cultural standards for the members.

One of the principal features which Rumanian collectives must copy from kolkhozes is their complex organization of production and their development of all branches of agriculture. They have made much progress in the growing of industrial crops, in animal husbandry, pomiculture, viticulture, and other branches of agricultural production.

The experience of the Soviet kolkhozes shows that no collective farm can be prosperous and satisfy the needs of its members as long as its activity is limited to crop growing alone. The introduction of more livestock on a farm strengthens it by creating a proper balance between crop cultivation and stock raising. The incomes of the collective farm members increase considerably, since they receive more products of animal origin, such as meat, cheese, and wool and thus enjoy a higher standard of living.

#### Labor Force

To expand their production activities, collectives must utilize properly their labor force. Proper utilization of the members' working capacity throughout the year guarantees regular performance of agricultural operations by all members of the collectives, especially during peak periods. In this connection, Article 9 of the Model Statute for Collective Farms states that these farms will do all in their power to do the following:

1. To develop branches of agricultural production, as local conditions permit, and also the home crafts practiced by the people of the region; to maintain fishponds, to establish new ones, and to develop pisciculture.

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2. To develop communal animal husbandry, to establish mixed or specialized livestock farms, to increase the number of cattle and improve their breed and productivity, to assist members of the collective farm in acquiring cows and small livestock for their personal holdings, to keep pedigreed breeding stock at the disposal of the livestock farms, to make this stock available for breeding with stock belonging to the individual members of the farm, and to observe veterinary and animal husbandry regulations.

3. To make full use of the available labor force and of all the agricultural implements, seeds, and other means of production belonging to the collective farm, as well as all the tractors, threshing machines, and other agricultural machinery which the state makes available to the farm through machine-tractor stations; and to make certain that all livestock and all other property belonging to the collective farm are kept in good condition.

4. To undertake the building by communal work of all the stables, coops, barns, wells, and manure platforms needed by the collective farm.

A uniform distribution of workdays throughout the year is achieved by a proper combination of all these activities. The cultivation of crops requires the largest labor force during the sowing and harvest periods, while the raising of livestock requires it during the winter months. Even in plant cultivation alone a more uniform utilization of the available labor force can be achieved. Thus, when the cultivation of cereals is combined with that of vegetables, the members of the collective farms will be busy with the vegetable crops (spring sowing, hoeing, late fall harvesting) during the periods between the various operations required by the cultivation of cereals.

#### Examples of Multilateral Development

The experience of the young collective farms of Rumania shows that the development of several branches of production brings a substantial increase in the remuneration per workday. This is demonstrated by the example of two collective farms in the same region. During 1951, the collective farm at Contesti, Teleorman Region, grew cereals on 130 hectares, cotton on 40 hectares, other industrial crops on 21 hectares, vegetables on 16 hectares, and fodder crops on 24 hectares.

In addition, it set up a cattle farm with 25 milk cows, a hog farm with 10 breeding sows, and a poultry farm with 250 fowl.

The income of the farm is derived from many sources, and the value of the workday is greater than at farms which have not developed several production branches.

Members of the collective farm received the following remuneration per workday, in kind (in kilograms):

Wheat	3.566	Beans	0.073
Barley	0.500	Onions	0.249
Corn	4.000	Garlic	0.034
Rice	0.135	Caustic soda	0.012
Sunflower seed	0.305	Sugar	0.020
Peas	0.300	Cotton fiber	0.025

In addition, they received cash compensation.

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In contrast, the collective farm at Suhaia, Teleorman Regiune, a neighbor of the Contesti farm, limited itself to plant cultivation. Members of the farm received the following remuneration per workday (in kilograms):

Wheat	4.000	Peas	0.180
Barley	0.622	Beans	0.080
Corn	3.000	Onions	0.268
Sunflower seed	0.175	Garlic	0.017

A comparison of the results obtained by the two collective farms reveals the superiority of the Contesti farm, which has developed more production branches. A substantial number of products (rice, sugar, cotton fiber, caustic soda, and others were derived from the cultivation of rice and cotton, which considerably increased the value of the work day.

A conclusive example of the manner in which the multilateral development of the collective farm increases the sources of income of the members is provided by the Drum Nou (New Road) Collective Farm at Coconi, Bucharest Regiune.

Following a year of well-organized work, during which it applied the methods of the Soviet kolkhozes and followed the advice of agricultural specialists, the Drum Nou Collective Farm obtained an average production of 956 kilograms of cotton per hectare, exceeding the planned production almost 75 percent and that of individual peasant holdings, 100 percent.

The farm received more than 5 million old lei for the cotton delivered to the cotton gin station, of which 1,578,290 old lei represented the premium for overfulfillment of the production plan.

By picking and sorting the cotton systematically the farm obtained more than 8,000 kilograms of cotton of superior quality.

In accordance with Decision No 137 of the Council of Ministers of 20 February 1951, the collective farm received the following industrial and agricultural products for the cotton delivered to the state:

Linens	8,594.35 meters
Cotton fiber	1,011.10 kilograms
Sugar	758.32 "
Caustic soda	758.32 "
Shelled corn	37,916.00 "

When the balance sheet showing the work of the members of the farm was drawn up, it revealed that the remuneration per workday derived from the production of cotton alone amounted to the following quantities of products (exclusive of cash):

Linens	0.55 meters
Cotton fiber	0.065 kilograms
Sugar	0.049 "
Caustic soda	0.049 "
Shelled corn	3.010 "

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The income obtained by the collective farm from the cultivation of cotton was much larger per workday than the incomes from the cultivation of other crops, as shown by the following table:

Crop	Cultivated Area (ha)	Value of a Workday in Industrial or Agricultural Products						Value of a Workday in Cash (old lei)	Percent
		Wheat	Corn	Sun-flower Seed	Linen	Cotton Fibers	Sugar		
Cotton	55	--	3.010	--	0.55	0.065	0.049	102.22	100
Corn	17.50	--	2.000	--	--	--	--	8.00	24.1
Wheat	68	3.640	--	--	--	--	--	20.38	16.10
Sun-flower seed	3	--	--	0.103	--	--	--	0.77	13.40

Note: Crops of equal area have been used for computing the percentage, cotton being used as the basis of computation.

Besides increasing the incomes distributed to its members, the farm was able to make substantial investments in a small power plant to electrify the farm, and build new barns, a stable, hay lofts, and other structures.

By developing numerous new production branches, the Gheorghe Doja Collective Farm at Bors, Bihor Regiune, realized a cash income of 4,693,305 lei by 1 October 1951. This income, derived from the following is given below (in lei):

Sale of cereals	685,920
Sale of medicinal plants	82,500
Sale of vegetables	2,712,886
Sale of milk and meat	445,653
Transportation	766,346
Total	4,693,305

The above figures show that only 685,920 lei were derived from the production of cereals, while 4,077,381 came from other branches of production.

#### Collective Farm Financing

Another advantage of a multilaterally developed collective farm is the more rapid circulation of the production funds and their regular recovery through sale of products. This can be achieved only by properly coordinating the branches having a long cycle of circulation with those having a shorter cycle.

In agriculture, there are branches in which the production funds have a long cycle of circulation and branches in which the production funds have shorter cycles of circulation. For example, the funds invested in farm structures (stables, outbuildings, and others) are recovered in 60-70 years.

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Continuous investments for 3 years are required for raising a milk cow before she begins to produce, so that it is only after this period that recovery of the invested funds begins. In wheat growing, recovery is effected after about 9 months, while in the cultivation of fruit trees and vineyards, recovery is completed only after 30-80 years.

Vegetable growing is a branch with a short cycle of circulation; the recovery period for most vegetables is 30-60 days.

It is obvious that a collective farm cultivating only cereals will have to overcome serious difficulties, since the outlay in materials and cash will not be recovered until the harvest and sale are completed in the autumn, and there will be no other source of income during the rest of the year.

When there is a proper combination of various branches of agricultural production, such as the cultivation of cereals with vegetable growing and the raising of cattle, pigs, and poultry, the funds recovered through the sale of the various products will come in at more regular intervals throughout the year. This is of the greatest importance for the continuous development of collective farms, since every delay in the recovery of the funds invested in production reduces the possibilities of expanding reproduction.

#### Auxiliary Enterprises

Auxiliary enterprises and handicraft shops also play an important part in assuring a regular income for a farm, especially during the winter months, when the time spent by the members in agricultural production is very limited.

A good example of a farm with regular income is the Progresul Collective Farm in Ialomita Province.

In addition to cereals, Progresul raised rice on 25 hectares, vegetables on over 12 hectares, and cotton on nearly 40 hectares. It also had 30 cows, about 1,000 sheep, 22 breeding sows, over 1,000 fowl, and an apiary.

The income from these production branches, 9,148,048 old lei, allowed it to undertake a considerable expansion of its animal farms in 1951, and the plan for 1952 provides for expanding the cultivation of rice to 50 hectares and for irrigating 200 hectares of wheat, corn, and other crops.

Another way of increasing the production of multilaterally developed collective farms is to utilize the waste materials from the various production branches. It is well known that in the case of cereals only a very small portion of the plant, namely the seed, is used directly by man. The loss of the rest of the plant (straw, chaff) means a great loss for the economy of the individual collective farm and also for the national economy.

To use these wastes and turn them to account, the collective farms should engage in animal husbandry, since animals transform such wastes into valuable products like meat and milk.

#### Successes Achieved

Although the collective farms in the RFR are only at the beginning of their activity, they have already achieved many important successes which prove conclusively the superiority of collectivized over individual agriculture. The 25-50 percent larger harvests of the collective farms, the mechanization of the principal agricultural operations with the assistance of the machine-tractor stations, the expansion of the areas planted in industrial crops, fruit trees, vineyards, and vegetables (which account for more than 30 percent of the total



arable land of the collective farms), the establishment of livestock farms, and the many new buildings are excellent examples of the progress made by agriculture under the conditions prevailing on the collective farms.

Establishment of complementary and auxiliary production branches alongside the main branch so as to accomplish the tasks outlined in the state plan is of the greatest importance in increasing the wealth of the collective farms, improving the economic and cultural standards of the members of the collective farms, and transforming the farms into model socialist units which will convince the peasants with small and middle-sized holdings of the correctness of the policy of the party and will serve as an inducement to them to join existing collective farms or organize new ones.

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